

we have of the mine of *aeneella*, but as the moths were not bred we cannot be quite sure of the determination.

I am most grateful to Mr Lempke for his letter which adds weight to the opinions I expressed, viz. (a) *aeneella* and *oxyacanthella* are distinct; (b) modern continental microlepidopterists have lost sight of *aeneella* and are confusing apple-feeding *oxyacanthella* with it; and (c) there is no valid evidence for the occurrence of *aeneella* in Britain.—A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, 31.i.1974.

INFERTILITY IN FEMALE HYLES GALLII ROTT.— On 25th July 1961 I trapped at Ottershaw, Surrey a female *H. gallii* which was in fair condition, almost certainly an immigrant, since eight other examples were recorded in widely distant places between 21st July and 1st August (French, *Entomologist*, 96: 36). It was kept for eggs but laid none for nine days; when on point of natural death it produced 35, which proved infertile, and I judged from its appearance that many more remained in the body. I see that in the October number there are two other reports (*Ent. Rec.*, 85: 247) of infertile females caught at light in 1973; and I have heard of similar disappointments, besides my own, in earlier years. It looks, therefore, as if Mr K. G. W. Evans' suggestion (*Ent. Rec.*, 85: 298) that females of the *Sphingidae* will not fly until they have been mated cannot be sustained in the case of *H. gallii*; and that the fact that his example taken at Sandwich on 10th August was barren gives no clue to whether it was immigrant or locally bred. The records of other probable immigrants, for example of *Eurois occulta* (L.), show that females are often infertile when caught in Britain, the migratory urge (or is it just a strong favourable wind?) apparently overtakes them before a male has found them, and the chance that this will happen after they have been dispersed by migration is obviously small, though Mr J. Briggs has reported a slightly assisted case of this in the October number.

In conclusion, may I register a heartfelt though no doubt unavailing protest at the recent substitution of "*aallii* Rottemburg, 1775" for the "*galii* Denis and Schiffermuller, 1775" as the necessary name for this species? No doubt the authors of the new Kloet and Hincks have done their homework correctly and have found that Rottemburg did spell it like that and that under the international rules he has the priority. But for both authors the reference is clearly to *Galium* L. the most usual food-plant of the species, and it seems absurd that the school-boy spelling howler of Rottemburg or his printer should after two centuries be revived and immortalised to give a meaningless Gallic suggestion. Surely the international rules can do better than that or, if they cannot, their interpreters should use a sensible discretion.—R. F. Bretherton, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, GU5, 0LE, 13.ii.74.